

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 081340Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6069

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: P I N T L Y

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN VIEW OF QADHAAFI'S NEW ROLE; GOE
GRANTS CITIZENSHIP TO KING IDRIS.

1. CAIRO PRESS FOR PAST TWO DAYS HAS EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM ABOUT MOVES IN LIBYA. APRIL 7 AHRAM, FOR EXAMPLE, HAD SPECIAL COMMENT IMPLYING THAT ENTIRE MATTER WAS CONCOCTED BY QADHAAFI TO REINFORCE HIS POSITION, AND SAME NEWSPAPER CARRIED A LONG ARTICLE A DAY LATER NOTING THAT THE "SURPRISE" IN THE AFFAIR LIES IN FACT THAT IT IS "OBSCURE" AND NOT RATIONALLY EXPLAINABLE. AS AHRAM PUTS IT: "IT IS CERTAIN THAT WHAT OCCURED IN LIBYA IS NOT A COUP STAGED BY JALLUD AGAINST QADAAFI AS SOME MIGHT IMAGINE--FOR IT IS NOT REASONALBE FOR JALLUD TO STAGE A COUP AGAINST QADHAAFI, THEN HAND THE ARMY COMMAND TO HIM AND LEAVE TRIPOLI THE FOLLOWING DAY TO ATTEND POMPIDOU'S FUNERAL.." ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT "SHOCK" TO QADHAAFI OF FAILURE OF HIS ARAB POLICY IS BEHIND MOVE, AND THAT HE IS NOW FREEING HIS HANDS IN ORDER TO TURN TOWARD OTHER AREAS SUCH AS EUROPE AND AFRICA.

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"REMEMBER ARISTOTLE", ARTICLE ENDS--"FOR AS THE GREEK

PHILOSOPHER SAID, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW IN LIBYA."

2. APRIL CAIRO PAPERS CARRY IN MAJOR HEADLINES NEWS OF GOE'S GRANT OF EGYPTIAN CITIZENSHIP TO KING IDRIS AND FAMILY. THIS EVENT MAY BE RELATED TO QADHAAFI'S MOVE. ALTHOUGH HINT AS TO REAL REASON IS GIVEN IN ARTICLE WHICH STATES THAT TWO YEARS AGO LIBYAN RCC MEMBER ARRIVED IN CAIRO TO QUESTION IDRIS "IN CONNECTION WITH AN ENQUIRY". RCC MEMBER WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO QUESTION KING, ALTHOUGH LIBYAN/EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WERE AT THEIR BEST THEN. IMPLICATION IS THAT SIMILAR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM QADHAAFI OR RCC, OR OTHER MOVE BY PRESENT LIBYA REGIME CAUSED IDRIS TO ASK FOR PERMANT PROTECTION FROM SADAT, WHICH WAS THEN GRANTED IN FORM OF CITIZENSHIP. PUBLICITY GIVEN TO MATTER, HOWEVER, CAN BE INTERPRETED AS SOMEWHAT DISDAINFUL SLAP AT QADHAAFI, POSSIBLY ENCOURAGED BY GOE IRRITATION AT LIBYAN LEADER'S LATEST PLAY.
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